

★ Consolidated Mess ★

Thought for the Day

THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO REASON to forgive when you can get revenge. ■☆☆

An Insider's Appraisal of the White House Staff

ONE OF OUR READERS recently departed the President's staff-- of his own volition. He was a dejected person, shorn of the enthusiasm and hope which buoyed him soon after Jimmy Carter took office, critical of some of the President's closest and most influential advisors. We asked him, if things were so bad, why more people on Jimmy Carter's staff weren't leaving: he told us, sadly,

"They came without any credentials, they haven't developed any in 2½ years, and they didn't resign over the new Ethics in Government law because they still don't have anything to peddle."

Editor's Note: Lest some of our new subscribers misconstrue us, we assure them that the JOURNAL is non-partisan politically, as it has been for 115 years. We are admittedly very partisan on other matters—like the value of competent leadership and the importance of good staff work. ■☆☆

Could the Problem Be Cheap Help?

OUR FRIEND'S APPRAISAL of Jimmy Carter's White House staff reminds us of a true story, never told before in print that we know of. Soon after Dwight D. Eisenhower became President, he invited ten or so distinguished citizens to a quiet dinner at the White House. One of them was Paul Porter of the prestigious Washington law firm Arnold & Porter. After dinner, Ike asked Porter to join him for an after-dinner drink in the first family's quarters on the second floor. There Ike told him, "Paul, you're a Democrat; I'm a Republican. You've known and served many more Presidents than I have. But I need your advice: what's the biggest problem a new President has to watch out for?"

Paul Porter hardly hesitated. "I can tell you in two words, Mr. President: Cheap Help." ■☆☆



"WE TOLD SCHEMMER if he didn't get off Stansfield Turner's case, that this was going to happen!" Actually, several soldiers are participating in "MOUT" (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) in Bonndorf, Germany. (US Army photo.)

The Great Carrier Debate: Bird Farms and Dinosaurs

THE GREAT CARRIER DEBATE has been reduced to its most fundamental terms by one of our readers, who must remain anonymous. The House Armed Services Committee has voted to buy a CVN nuclear-powered carrier; the Senate Armed Services Committee says a conventionally powered, Kennedy-class carrier (CV) will suffice; but the Administration is still plugging for a smaller, new type of CVV.

Trying to explain the implications of this important issue to a member of AFJ's staff, our reader summed it all up this way. "What it really boils down to is, 'What kind of a bird farm are we going to buy the Navy?'"

Realizing that our staffer was still confused, our reader clarified it all quite simply:

"The CVN is a 'super nuke'—an aircraft carrier about the size of Long Island. The CV is about the same size, but you have to refuel it: what number the Navy assigns to it (CV-30 or CV-81, for instance) determines whether you refuel it on odd or even days. The CVV is much smaller—about the size of Maryland's eastern shore."

With that clarified, our staffer acknowledged that the issue now seemed rather basic, and therefore couldn't understand why the bureaucracy couldn't agree on one of those alternatives so the Navy could get on with its new bird farm. To which our reader then explained, "What's complicating the decision is a general understanding that if we build the Navy one of the big bird farms, it will be the last aircraft carrier built by this country in this century—sort of a corporate decision that 'There will be no more dinosaurs!' And the country's never had to face that decision before." ■☆☆

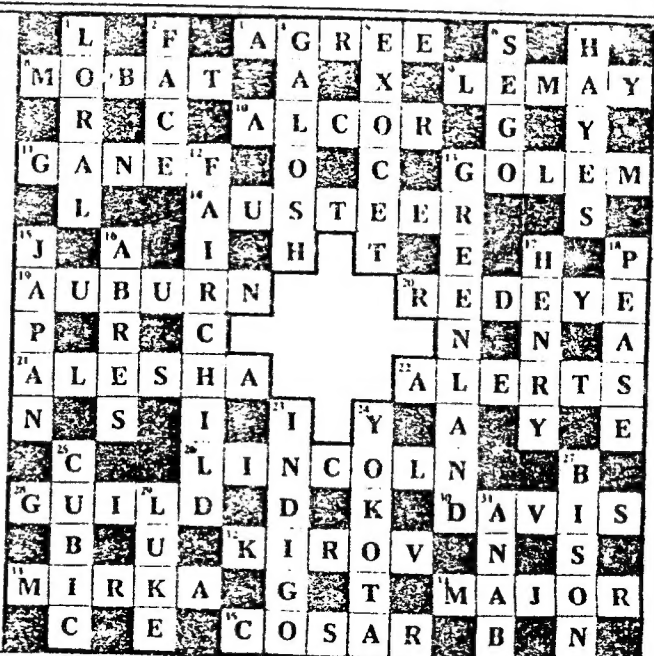
AFJ Denies Insidious 116th Birthday Rumor

SOMEONE HAS STARTED A RUMOR that on August 29th, our 116th Birthday, AFJ will host a dismissal party for CIA Director Stansfield Turner. We deny it. Instead, the Journal staff will be taking the day off to celebrate. ■☆☆

Candid Self Portraits

CONGRESSMAN JIM LLOYD (D-CA) of the House Armed Services Committee admitted to a Paris Air Show visitor who was obviously enthralled by his technical expertise and eloquence, "If b.s. were snow, I'd be a bizzard."

To which an aerospace vice president rejoined, "If b.s. were electricity, I'd be the Boulder Dam." ■☆☆



DID YOU GET THEM ALL? For those who didn't or just want to make sure, the solution to last month's crossword (Consolidated Mess) appears above. Our thanks to Mr. John Glockler of Citrus Heights, CA for submitting it. ■☆☆